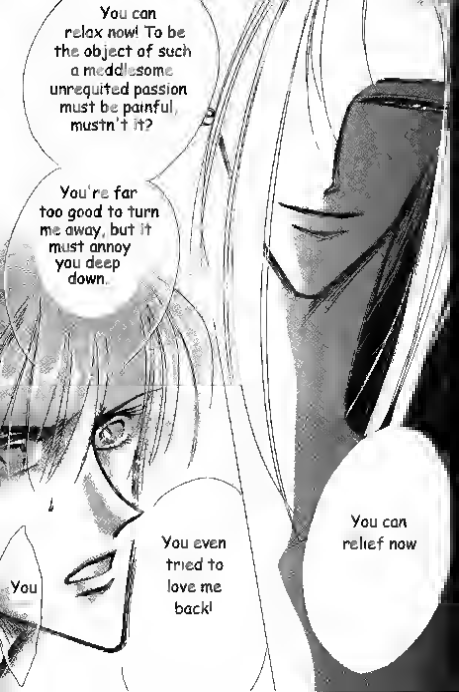
I don't want a dream-like fairytale!

BRONZE
ZETSUAI since 1989
⑤ 渇愛
尾崎南

Good bye, Izumi.
I'm tired of chasing you
I should think you feel the same... don't you?

You have charisma. Anyone who gets to know you will become your willing hostage and admirer.
You'll be able to choose among them to your heart's content. you have no need to sacrifice your future for someone like me
It's enough Izumi I'm setting you free!


You can relax now! To be the object of such a meddlesome unrequited passion must be painful, mustn't it?
You're far too good to turn me away, but it must annoy you deep down.
You
You even tried to love me back!
You can relief now

Oh, I forget, you've never been with a woman, have you? But you'll get married eventually. Everyone does.
Izumi, women are better after all!
They were made for us
Ko_
J(—
I'll smile then and wish you the best is that all right?
I'll say to myself "He's happy how wonderful"
STOP IT!
Or would you like me to do so quietly from the shodows? Whotever you wish
KOJI!
"It was the right choice to break up back then"

!!
It seems I gove you too much shot
You re owake now?
Did you have o pleasant dream?
Don't worry it s not hormful

Let's continue...
According to our reports, you dated a schoolgirl once, but once only
What did you... do to Kunihide?
You're completely inexperienced heterosexually?

Great. I had my secretary dress up just for you
No
Are you impotent with women? Homosexual?
To be ruined by Koji before you've experienced the other sex... poor thing
Do enjoy yourself
Tonight is a wonderful christmas
Stop it!
Don't touch me...!
you'd find same-sex rape to be more humiliating than a heterosexual act with a woman wouldn't you?
Or rather, if you were a normal man

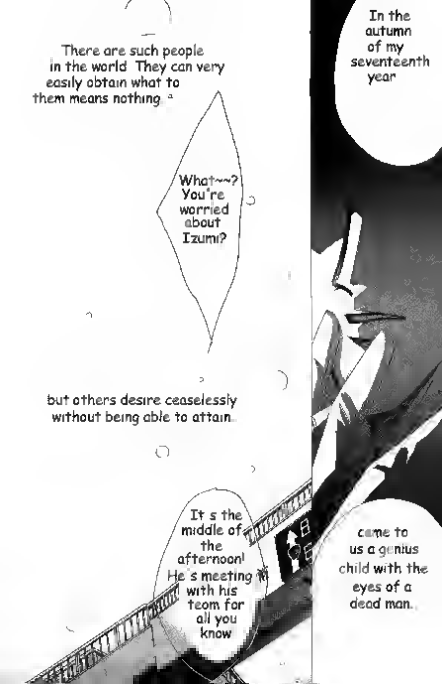
Ugh..!
Kouji's injury...
might be all the greater for it
Do you... want him... to kill you?
No matter how events develop, he will suffer.
He would go to jail for it. Not only would he be unable to see you, he would have implicated you in a murder case again. Koji is incapable of surviving such agony

Those three words from Koji s lips? It must be the joke of the century!
It s quite engaging!
He s mad!
This man
And you actually want someone like that?
He s insane.
as long as he loves you

Stop it... Get your hands off me-!
What
Oh,
so that's the scar! Deeper than I thought
Child-hood trauma wields enorm-ous
influence on mental makeup to such a point that one might say it formed the basis for the future personality
A lifetime's not enough to heal such wounds is it?

I have a right to know, don't I?
Why... do you hate Koji so much...?
But very well
Right to know? How naive you are.
In a family endowed with a long-inherited kenda history as well as a traditional family run company the Nanjou clan s eldest son
I was born

I had to train rigorously in martial arts as well as the principles of management. Blood and sweat... but I was content.
I was groomed from childhood to take my place as head of the family. You have no idea of the pressures that weighed on me from the first - but at the same time, the pride I derived from my position was enormous.
I thought of such things as a matter of course.
I placed myself above the common herd, because my father's eyes were constantly on me. My ego was based on confidence and self-esteem.
My father was strict but of expansive character. I respected him, loved him. I applied myself so as not to fail him in his expectations of me.
Because I was always admired, always made much of


In the autumn of my seventeenth year
There are such people in the world. They can very easily obtain what to them means nothing.
What~~? You're worried about Izumi?
but others desire ceaselessly without being able to attain.
came to us a genius child with the eyes of a dead man.
It's the middle of the afternoon! He's meeting with his team for all you know.

~Oh please! it's so far he usually doesn't get home until three!
I don't care, get in touch with him! No, tell me the number and I'll do it!
I just asked the school, they've all gone home.
Is the bodyguard following him? Did he contact you according to schedule?
I remember feeling the
same way last time, when I ran
aut and found Izumi covered in blood! No, it s worse today An evil premonition almost nausea
Damn it!
If anything happens he'll call me
He won't talk to you! (Don t freak out like th s!)
If anything happens it'd be too late! Call now!
But
On Christmas Eve tnat I'm going to be late for my date!
That jerk!

Calm down... think it over.
Last time I was lucky to be so close, and to know his whereabouts. Today is different, it's too far!
What with Christmas Eve and the snow, traffic is in a snarl.
It's two hours by bus, no matter what I do I stand I high chance of missing him. What way is there?
If it were only a hallucination...
but the anxiety in my heart is too real!
Nanjo Consolidated, this is Gotou of the first secretarial office.

Everything that supported my sense of self was destroyed by him-..
Call Hirose!
Call your president.
I'm Nanjo Koji
How could he comprehend my bitter despair?
He treated everything as a new game to be played a few times before moving on
And Koji absorbed with ease only to abandon once bored

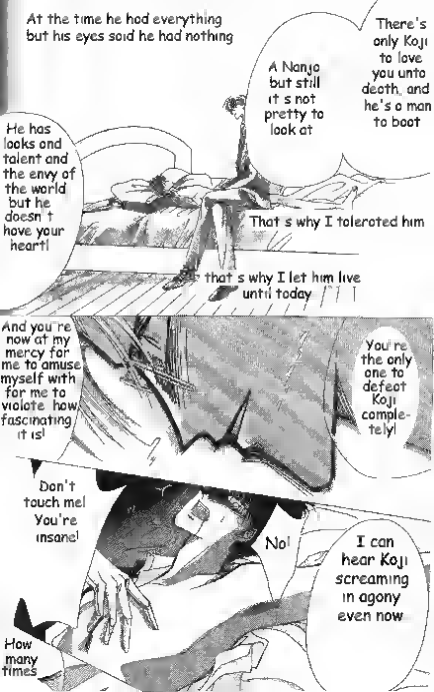
Father, look at me! I work so hard obeying your words. I've battled up to now!
You're not willing to admit that Koji's better than you...
You're just a sore loser...
Father...
The only thing...
You can't say he took everything from you because that's the way things work the stronger wins!
What am I to you in the end?
Was Koji's dead gaze
That saved me...
Father!
but he was born without the will to do anything So no matter what that detested Koji could never menace me. He doesn't even deserve my enmity
Without salvation in his heart, Kouji could never be a success at anything. With his god-given talent if he had the will he would know no limits

"Koji's strong he's quite talented Father."
When Father transferred all his attention to Koji I almost went mad I hated I was powerless my ego suffered a killing blow
But my exultation didn't last for long
However, once he entered junior high, he started to involve himself with women continually, never even coming home
He was also completely rebellious, and my father in anger severed all relations with him.
I was beside myself with joy!
Father's will brought more ill tidings
It seems that Father never truly abandoned him I'd lost after all!
Lost to a far younger brother...

went to his knees in front of me for you!
That creature of hubris and egotism lost his voice because of you...
With that gaze,
And the worst of the matter is, he'd already found you.
Unforgivable!
he wept before us!
To be loved and needed by someone like that should be quite satisfying shouldn't it? Doesn't it make you happy?
As if to say that he's found his most precious thing,
that he would not exchange for all the riches of the world
I can't forgive him!
Are you happy?
That gaze...
Kouyi!
To have the adoration of the teeming masses focussed on you alone must give you a great sense of superiority
Izumi Takuto!

Only someone .....
who's never really been loved could say something like that.
You think I m to be envied?
No wonder you know so little
You think I exist in a state of perfect contentment?

Oh...
but you're to be pitied as well! You're the victim!
You're pathetic!


At the time he had everything but his eyes said he had nothing
There's only Koji to love you unto death, and he's a man to boot
A Ninja but still it's not pretty to look at
He has looks and talent and the envy of the world but he doesn't have your heart!
That's why I tolerated him
That's why I let him live until today!!!
And you're now at my mercy for me to amuse myself with for me to violate how fascinating it is!
You're the only one to defeat Koji completely!
Don't touch me! You're insane!
No!
I can hear Koji screaming in agony even now
How many times

has he fucked you?
!!
AAH
AH
Did he take your virginity in this room?
Urgent phone call from the company
Aaah..
President!

Ha!
He phones me... must be for the first time
Didn't I leave instructions that I was to be disturbed for one call only?
Izumi... it's your knight in shining armour. Are you going to scream for rescue?
It's precisely that one.
!!
Call hasn't picked up. How long is he going to make me wait?
However, unless he grows wings as in the fairytale and flies over,
he won't get here in time

Useless!
COME HERE
like in a fairy tale
Ko
Ko
Ko Ji
Wings
I have it an hold
he can't hear you

He can't hear...
TRRRR
!!
Shibuya! What the hell?
Hello? It's me
Don't worry about it he's on his way home
Really?
It has to have something to do with him!
Shit!
Doo
!!

Really? He's really okay?
Just you wait! It'd be pretty depressing if Izumi got home and found himself alone, wouldn't it?
Even if you run out after him it'd be useless surely you can figure that out!
Have I ever lied to you yo moron?
If you're lying I'll kill you!
There's sure to be lineups shopping today so it's only natural that he'd get home late
Really ?
Just stay at home and wait!

It's got to be some plot of those Nanjos!
What now?
Shit, how can I tell him there's no news at all... This isn't good.
He's so distant that he can't hear you cry for help.
True love links you so that anything can be transmitted...
That's reality.
surely you don't go through life wearing such rose-tinted glasses!
Are you done with puking...? Your vomiting signals your weak point
We can't use the bed now...

He
Hi
H
It doesn't matter...
Anywhere is the same for what we're going to do
Koji is
totally different from you...
Oh really? You believe in him? That is startling! But regardless his passion won't last for long
He's always abandoned as soon as he's conquered we had a steady stream of women trekking through the house making scenes
The reason he's so serious about you
is because he hasn't managed to conquer you yet.

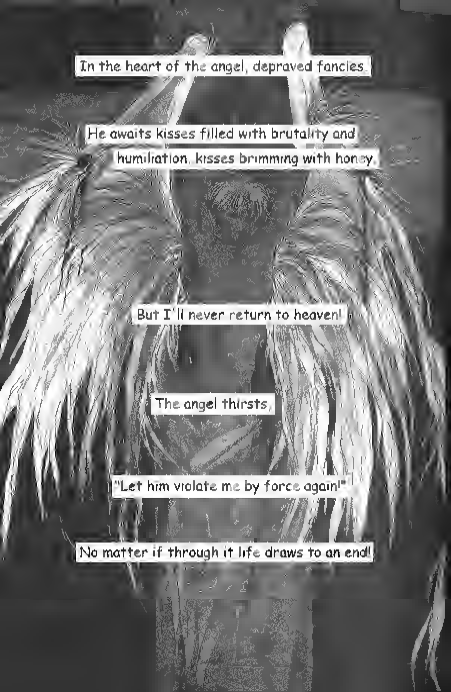
YOU'RE LYING!
It was a grand passion strong enough to face the opposition of the world, and that was how it ended
The husband had an affair, so the wife killed the husband
It seems that your parents were the principals in a murder case

You're lying!
I don't know anything about that!
It's a pity she didn't inform the court in the first place, she could have gotten a reduced sentence.
You couldn't not know. Didn't your mother tell you everything after she was released from prison?
Wh... What ?
I don't..
Go ask the police.
They took a statement from that woman.
Did you really think your mother killed your father out of love?
Merely nature's mechanism for ensuring the perpetuation of the species
Love diminishes with time, cools, sickens
Love is only an expression of that urge so partners should change frequently
The love of men especially so since they have the biological impulse to sire as many children as possible and so desire many women

Father smiled...
waiting for mother to kill him!
It's impossible... because...
he smiled...
He said...
Mother loved him, that's why she wanted to keep him to herself.
he loved her.
Father looked back at mother
and he smiled.
I seem to have said more than I should have.
It's about time to end the digression.
I tried to hide
because of the pain.
Why discuss such matters?

Think of me...
The first time I lived together with Koji...
Come to think of it you mistook me for him at first
How about this
was in this room...
He said he loved me!
as Koji

AAAHHH!
HELP..!
AH
Help....
Relax your body
I won t be as gentle as him

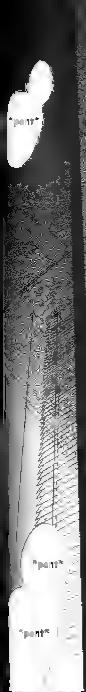

In the heart of the angel, depraved fancies
He awaits kisses filled with brutality and humiliation, kisses brimming with honey.
But I'll never return to heaven!
The angel thirsts,
"Let him violate me by force again!"
No matter if through it life draws to an end!

"But I have no wings, I cannot reach heaven."

No matter how sincere my prayers,
Wings cannot sprout from the backs of humans!

"Anything can happen!"
(Can I take to the air to save you?)
"Even after death there is life!"
(Merely the foolish imaginings of mankind.)"
That is the harsh reality of existence
after death there cannot be rebirth
"As lang as yau exhaust your fervour in the service af samething greater than life"
(Without life there is nothing.)

If he wakes up,
make him breathe it some more.
Yes.
Un.
Fairytales only happen
in fairyland.
The president's business is still no finished



No matter how desperate your struggles, no matter how piercing your cries,

The only one who can save you is yourself. Grace will not descend from the skies

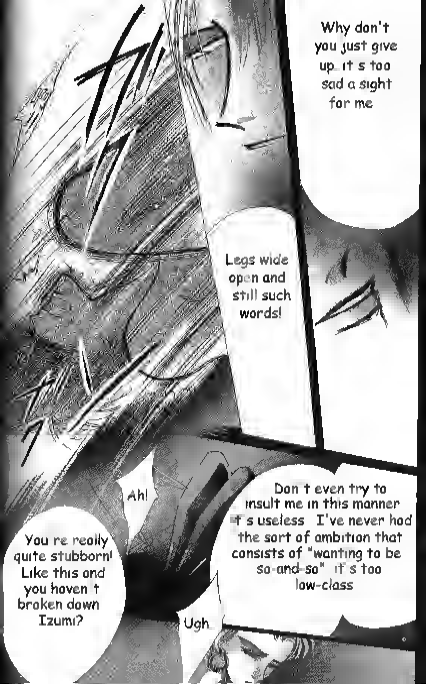
The heart alone cannot..

transmit all thoughts.

Bas..
tard!
You can yell if you want
Let's hear you call Kay's name again
"pant"
"pant"
Ah !
"pant"

YOU BASTARD. DON'T THINK I'LL DO AS YOU SAY!

quite worship Koji really, don't you?
You
You hate him because you can't be like him. You're jealous of his abilities!
You want to be a born prodigy like Koji...
You're wrong.
"Becoming like Koji" holds no meaning for me.
Stuck-up, aren't you?
I wish only to be myself and no one else.


Why don't you just give up. it's too sad a sight for me
Legs wide open and still such words!
Don't even try to insult me in this manner it's useless I've never had the sort of ambition that consists of "wanting to be so-and-so" it's too low-class
Ugh
Ah!
You're really quite stubborn! Like this and you haven't broken down Izumi?

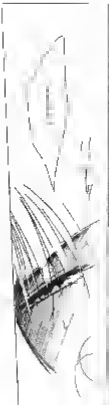
I'll...
never give you what you want!

Insulted, trampled, abused in a hundred ways.
how is it that he's retained his haughty gaze?
Hasn't he always lived apart from the crowd, apart without hope?
Or is it precisely because of that?
You've piqued my taste for conquest

Following

I'd choose Serika and Yuugo

that uncowed honor!



In the midst of despair following only hope

Even if everything falls apart, it wouldn't matter to you?

For Koji you would abandon your siblings and your soccer?

I'm all that he has.
So I'd choose my brother and sister
Even if I abandoned Koji, betrayed Koji,
he would still follow me.

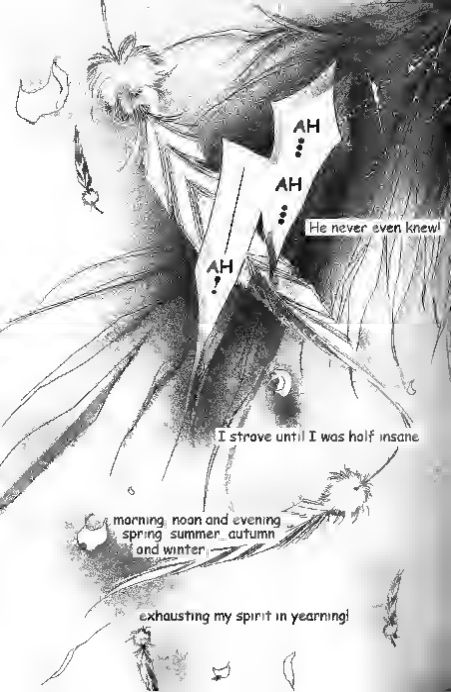
Becouse you trust in his love.
What..
attacks him from within...
Bright whirlpools and dark abysses of hatred
So Even if he follows and adores you without a care for himself,
you would trample his heart underfoot?

Your heart...
must be thirsting!
No I don't!
If he loves me without a care for himself...does that mean I have to requite him?

Even if you didn't do this
Koji...
is this whirlpool of light...
your one and only?
I wouldn't believe in love.

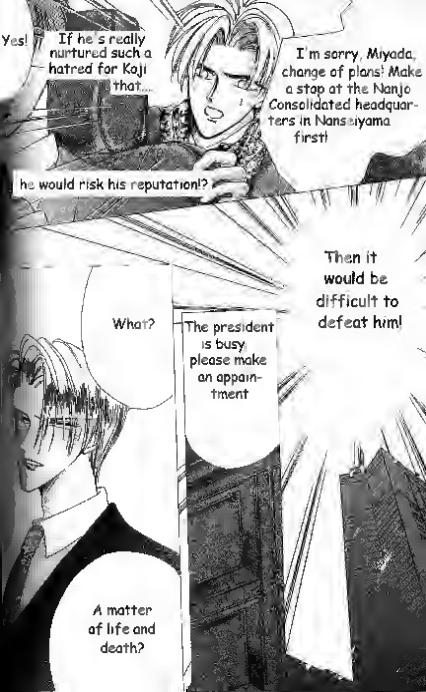
You grow up that way after all, such thoughts suit you.
That does make sense.
I want more and more to devastate you.
You were never my dream.
Never once.
It doesn't matter if you love Kouji or not; that has nothing to do with me. Kouji aspires only to one thing in this world,
and that thing is before me
All my years I've only had one dream, and the prodigy you crushed it easily.
I have nothing for you but hatred!

For me,
that's already enough.

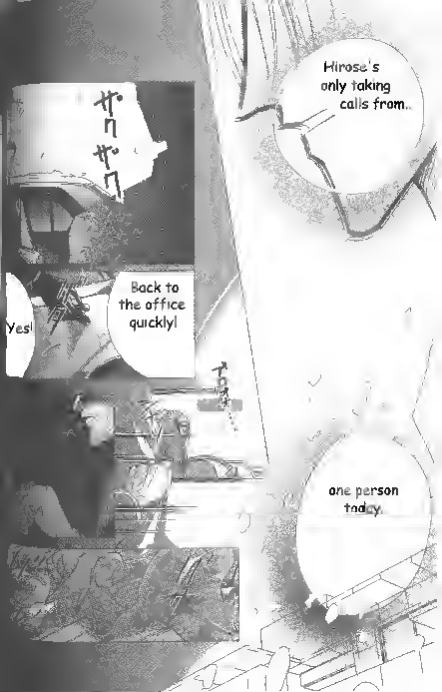

AH
AH
He never even knew!
AH
I strove until I was half insane
morning, noon and evening
spring, summer, autumn
and winter
exhausting my spirit in yearning!

My heart s-blood efforts my bitterness and raging prayers
my one and only never even knew!
What? Did something happen?
So
Sorry
TELEPHONE
It was right after he left the school with Kunihide Hisaya That s right!
I was ambushed from behind and knocked out when I woke up I was in an abandoned factory outside the city

They're beyond my level!
Two men in suits and dark shades. I never even noticed their footsteps. I'm sorry!
Did you see your attackers?
Do you know where it is? It's Koji's old apartment.
Go to Kunihide's place! I'll call the police anonymously.
beside HIM, no one could pull this off!
How could things
A car?
No... it must be more than that. There must be a long story behind this.
Does he hate him because his father left him the inheritance in his will?
He never planned on letting Koji go.
but...
He's not the type to disrupt his life for this sort of affair.

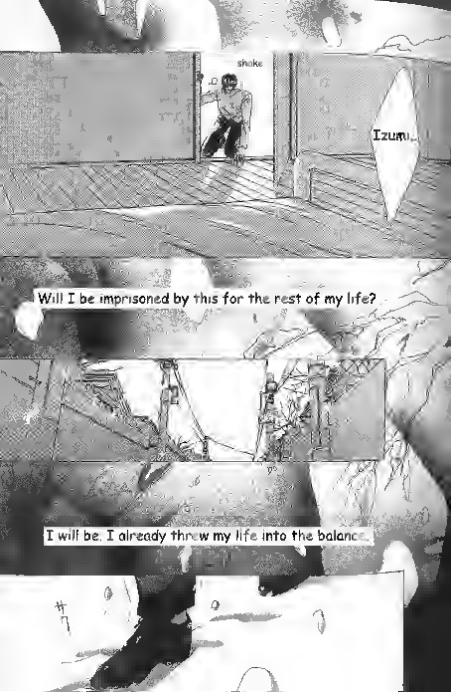

Yes!
If he's really nurtured such a hatred for Koji that...
I'm sorry, Miyada, change of plans! Make a stop at the Nanjo Consolidated headquarters in Nanseiyama first!
he would risk his reputation!?
Then it would be difficult to defeat him!
What?
The president is busy, please make an appointment
A matter of life and death?

Akihito-san
Even if he were, he wouldn't do it himself. Do you think he's that dumb? Even you found out where he was it wouldn't do you any good
Are you trying to say that Hirose's going to kill somebody?
Police? (Hmph!) That's no use against us
We're on the verge of calling in the police It would be disadvantageous to you to force our hand you'd probably do better to contact him
Like today, he forbade me from contacting him
so I never know anything
Hirose never tells me anything
I don't
You're always by his side!
You must know something!


Hirose's only taking calls from..
ヤバヤバ
Back to the office quickly!
Yes!
one person today.

I committed a stupidity!

In the instant that youth transfixed me with his gaze,
Passions I should have forgotten long since surfaced, and I started to become serious with him!
Are you home? Please open the door!
Kunihide!
I know why I wasn't the chosen one because I'm not strong enough
My abilities were not up to par with my father's hopes. I didn't pass the test
I know I shouldn't hate, but I pity myself too much. I'm always aware of the tragedy!


shake
Izumi...
Will I be imprisoned by this for the rest of my life?
I will be. I already threw my life into the balance.

Some dreams can never be realized, no matter how you crave for them to be!

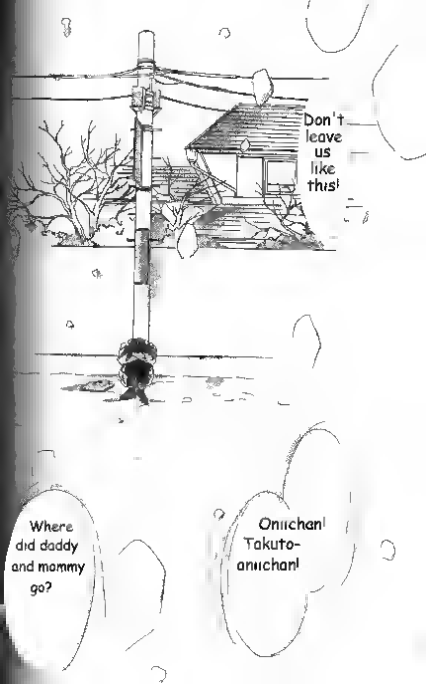
..He was lying
private property
Izumi Gakuen
wasn't he..?

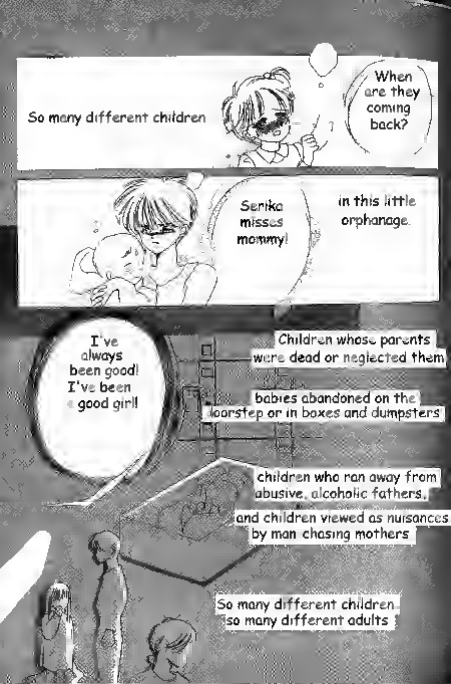
Father...
it's not true is it?
Mother...!

Having... an affair...
with .....
some-one else...

why did you
have us?
At that time, did you
really love each other?
Why

You were in love but it didn't last... did it... but that's not important.
What's wrong with that boy?
Ignore him
Don't leave us like this...
Love...
whatever, it's not an important thing, it doesn't matter
Don't

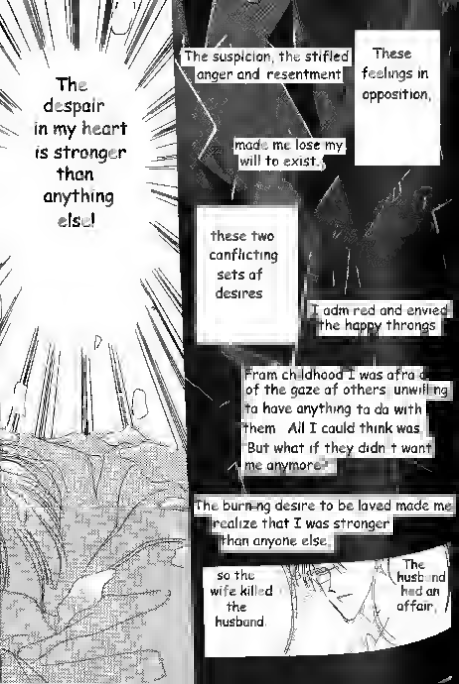

Don't leave us like this!
Where did daddy and mommy go?
Onichan! Takuto-anichan!


So many different children
When are they coming back?
Senika misses mommy!
in this little orphanage.
I've always been good! I've been a good girl!
Children whose parents were dead or neglected them
babies abandoned on the doorstep or in boxes and dumpsters
children who ran away from abusive, alcoholic fathers,
and children viewed as nuisances by man chasing mothers
So many different children so many different adults

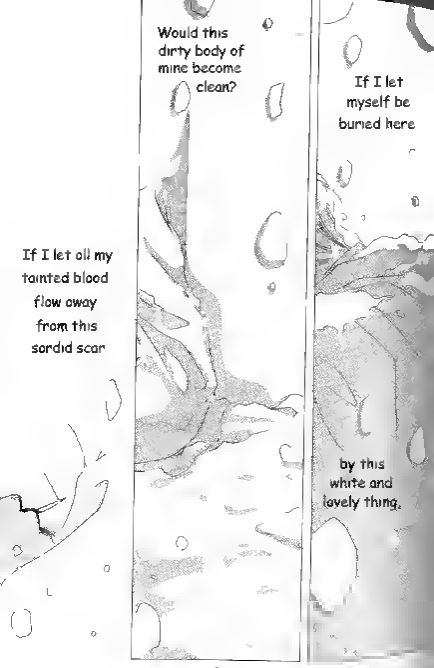
Why love
(or never loved from the start)?
Why marry
(or never bothered to marry at all)?
Why hove it turn to dislike, and divorce?

The only hope left open is to commit lovers suicide!

(Even when there's no dislike, still there is parting of ways)
Why bring children into the world thoughtlessly, only to abandon them? Why love at all? Sooner or later there is sickening, hatred, forgetfulness.


The despair in my heart is stronger than anything else!
The suspicion, the stifled anger and resentment
These feelings in opposition,
made me lose my will to exist.
these two conflicting sets of desires
I admired and envied the happy throngs
From childhood I was afraid of the gaze of others unwilling to have anything to do with them All I could think was "But what if they didn't want me anymore?"
The burning desire to be loved made me realize that I was stronger than anyone else.
so the wife killed the husband
The husband had an affair,

Winter snow so cold, so lovely...
So cold!


Would this dirty body of mine become clean?
If I let myself be buried here
If I let all my tainted blood flow away from this sordid scar
by this white and lovely thing.

Would I be able to grow wings?

God!
IZUMI!

Sorry...
I broke my promise,
But...
I found you!

Izumi
DON'T COME NEAR ME!
just take me away from here!
What is this a cheap daytime soap?
The plot's straight out of pulp fiction
Do anything,
Sigh..

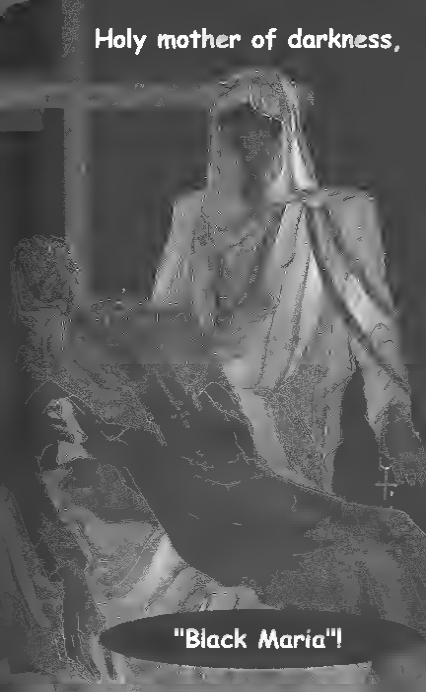
All the highways are jammed, so I took buses and taxis, but then we got stuck in traffic again so I got out and ran...
You weren't at the school sports center, so I ran again. I thought you might be here...
Come to my side!
Why are you here?
How did you know I was here?

You weren't followed, were you? Rock star
Buses? Running?
Doesn t sound like you
Izumi, you're pale, how long have you been sitting here?
Don't worry, I lost them...
I SAID DON'T COME NEAR ME!

Izumi...
Izumi?
Hold me...
don't leave me...

Stay by
my side!

Please save this-
mad soul of mine!


Holy mother of darkness,
"Black Maria"!

pant
breath
breath
This earthly life hasn't yet ended!

Izumi
what... happened?

Izumi

wait
wait for
me!
Izumi!
Please!
I'm
begging
you!

Will you please...
come back to me?

I can't believe it! Isn't it Ninja Koji?
What, Ninja Koji? How could it... oh!
Hey, look!
Man, what's he doing?
Dangerous
Omigosh it's... is him!
Wow
Stand up
You're making a spectacle of yourself

aren't you ashamed?
yelling "come back to me" at another man
Big boy like you crawling on the ground
Ignorant of limits, emotionless, unrealistic
"creature of hubris and egotism"?
"Looks and talent such that you'd never lack women or money"

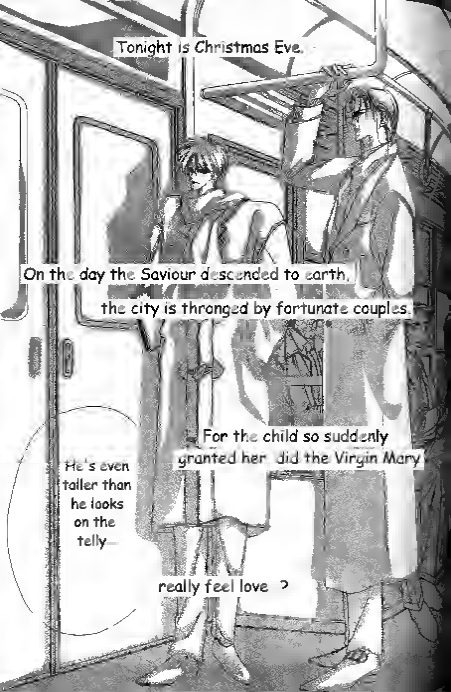
I wish they could see you as you are now.
You seem...
pathetic to me, selfish and wilful
You're nothing but irritation!

I'm not ashamed!
I'm not ashamed at...
Look over there Nanjo Koji See the girls hiding and eavesdropping on us?
Stand up!
all!
The street's quiet but it's broad daylight See yet another passer-by...
I AM!

Let's go home
Traffic jam we'll take the bus
Izumi
Take the bus
I... wait I'll call a taxi
IZUMI!
Ah!

what happened to you? You're wobbling...
You...
Your hand... So cold...
Put on my gloves! How will you take the bus in this condition?

Don't touch me!
— This earthly life
Hey!
Look!
still continues...
Wow why s he taking the bus?

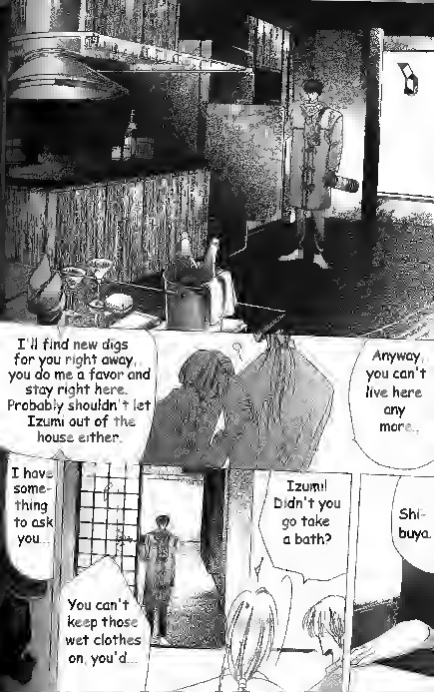

Tonight is Christmas Eve.
On the day the Saviour descended to earth,
the city is thronged by fortunate couples.
For the child so suddenly granted her did the Virgin Mary
He's even taller than he looks on the telly...
really feel love ?

They pretend not to be paying attention, but they're all looking at you.
Why continue to cling on?
It's funny.
See the od there? It s got your name on it right next to "former lover tells all "
You're just so not suited to your surroundings.
Why do humans want so much to believe in the stories they tell themselves?

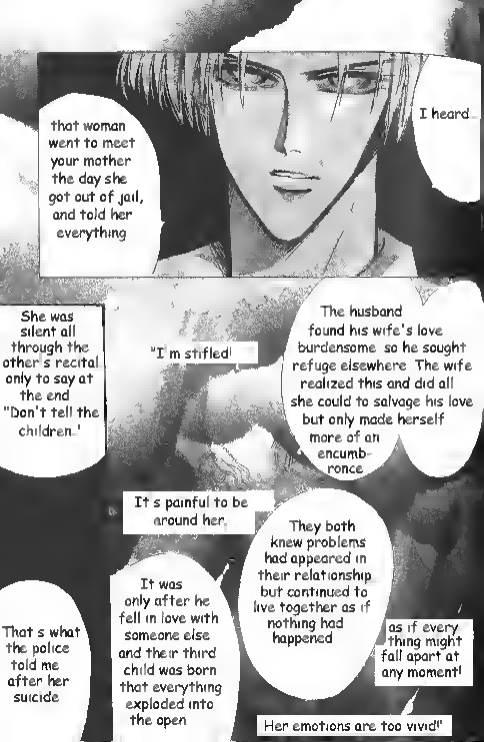
Is it?
It's fake
Guileless virgin, snow-pure and tranquil Maria,
Holy mother!
did you never bleed before your assumption?

So you came home by bus?
Oh...
Only those who have faith will be saved...
And this time too... you ran straight out after you hung up on me, didn't you?
If Izumi comes home call
Thanks for being so kind as to leave a note, but I couldn't get through to the number at all.
Oh, we've thought of everything haven't we. Don't you know how worried I was?
Don't you care about what other people feel?
I found Izumi, so I turned the phone off.

Do you know what happened?
I was casual about hiring him.
It's my fault for underestimating the opponent, and I apologize for it
There's no smoking gun but he was gone from the office on private business today
Found the younger brother, but he clammed up
On the other hand, it's certain that Nanjo Consolidated put the moratorium on media reports on the girlfriend
Those are the only leads we have


I'll find new digs for you right away, you do me a favor and stay right here. Probably shouldn't let Izumi out of the house either.
Anyway, you can't live here any more.
I have something to ask you...
You can't keep those wet clothes on, you'd...
Izumi! Didn't you go take a bath?
Shibuya.

What?
!?
Was my father
killed by my mother because he was having an affair?


that woman went to meet your mother the day she got out of jail, and told her everything
I heard...
She was silent all through the other's recital only to say at the end "Don't tell the children..'
"I m stifled!
The husband found his wife's love burdensome so he sought refuge elsewhere The wife realized this and did all she could to salvage his love but only made herself more of an encumbronce
It s painful to be around her.
They both knew problems had appeared in their relationship but continued to live together as if nothing had happened
as if every thing might fall apart at any moment!
It was only after he fell in love with someone else and their third child was born that everything exploded into the open
That s what the police told me after her suicide
Her emotions are too vivid!"

He could have gone and shacked up with his new girl-friend. It's moronic!
If he felt she was a millstone around his neck, why didn't they break up immediately?
Fear maybe?
Why didn't that woman come out with her story before?
Izumi
She had quite a guilt complex from keeping back her secret for so many years
Nanjo Hirose?
Who told you this story?
It doesn't matter who told me!

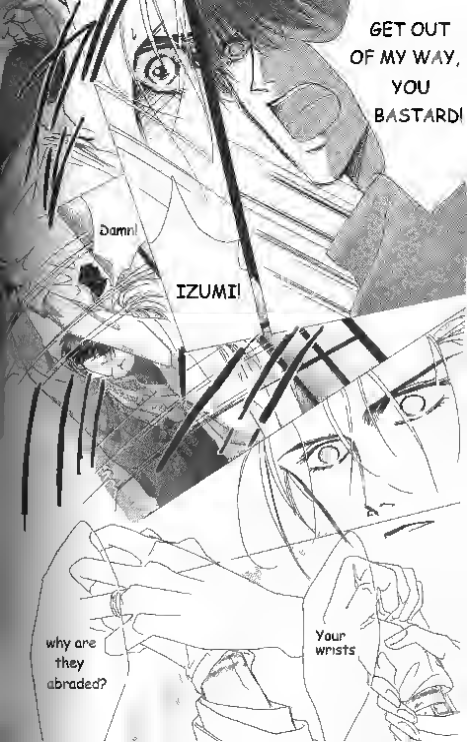
Sorry!
I knew and there was no way I could tell you
Maybe even if he'd tried the ending would have been the same
It was impossible to break up?
Maybe because

That's right.
You two can't continue to live together any longer.
Fine.
Wha..
I'll be waiting for you in the car.
It was destined from the beginning!
Izumi
go pack You're moving out
This is a despairing love!
If no one willingly puts an end to it, the despair would continue forever.
I won't let you go!

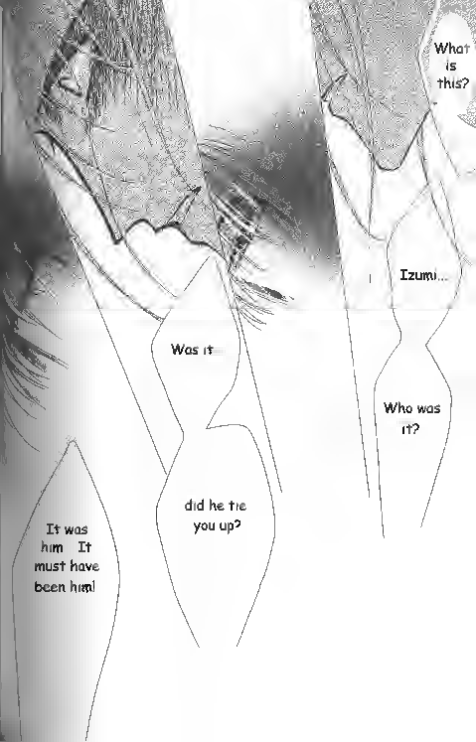
He won't be coming out no matter how long I wait
Sir ?
Are we leaving now?
Sorry for the long wait
Yeah let's go home.
The snow is so deep
Nothing
But this is an end that no one could have the will bring about!
First time I've ever seen such heavy snow in Tokyo
best to spend the evening relaxing with a book

Out of my way!
No way!

I'm telling you to get out of my way!
Tell me,
what really happened?
NO!


GET OUT OF MY WAY, YOU BASTARD!
Damn!
IZUMI!
why are they abraded?
Your wrists

You....
what are
you doing
.....
Stop!
Bastard.


What is this?
Izumi...
Was it
Who was it?
did he tie you up?
It was him It must have been him!

I'll kill him!
I've found someone else

I just went to bed with him, you're not happy with this explanation?
What part of "I can't stand you" do you have trouble with?
Because I have someone else now, I won't see you again.
I don't want to make the same mistake as my parents.

Liar!
I won't believe such lies Why?
You couldn't possibly do something like that
It's not who you are!

It's not who I am?
And who do you think I am exactly?
I think you're under some sort of misunderstanding
You have way too high an opinion of me
It's not that I was too nice to turn you down

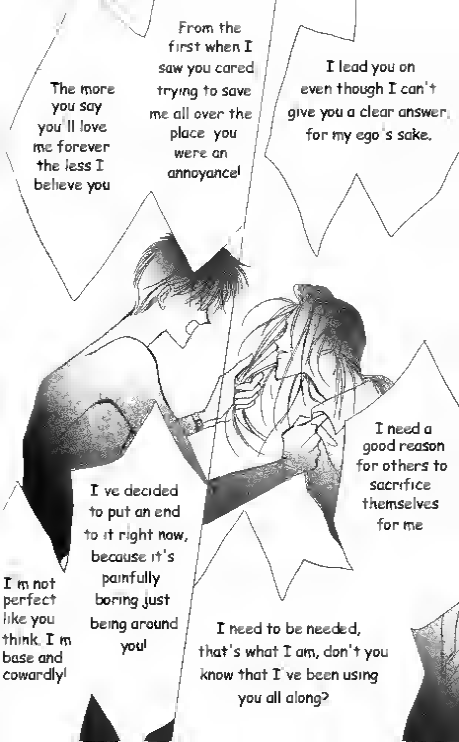
I'm not as kind-hearted and noble as you think.
The time you almost died, I ate and laughed just like things were normal.
When I played soccer I forgot about you totally, thought only of myself.
But didn't you suffer?
You did so many things for me
I told you I loved you and you tried to accept my love you were harmed because of it
Stop daydreaming!

How can you be so sure that I wouldn t fall for someone else?
Do you think that if you throw yourself + m
you ll obtain me body and soul ?

I'll tell you
I opened my legs willingly just now.
Don't speak any more...

Don't say anything else!
What?
Don't
Check if you want I haven t showered yet..the traces are still on me
I did a woman too it was great Women are beautiful and soft tkey smell good
He took you by force and it s all my fault...
You're trying to push me away to save me and him...
Shut up!
You're trying to help me..aren't you? You're lying like this because you re afraid I ll become a murderer!

Don't confuse me with your ideals!
The Izumi you fell in love with is long gone!
but really it's because I couldn't stand to be harassed any longer myself
I decided not to go to Italy because I was scared I used my brother and sister as a cover for my cowardice


From the first when I saw you cared trying to save me all over the place you were an annoyance!
I lead you on even though I can't give you a clear answer, for my ego's sake.
The more you say you'll love me forever the less I believe you
I need a good reason for others to sacrifice themselves for me
I've decided to put an end to it right now, because it's painfully boring just being around you!
I'm not perfect like you think. I'm base and cowardly!
I need to be needed, that's what I am, don't you know that I've been using you all along?

I'm not the Holy Virgin Mary.
I don't even love you!
I don't gront wishes!

Do you want me now ?

Take it!
Take me by force as you usually do!
Beg me like before.
yell yell that you love me!
Scream at me the whole day long!
Then come take it!
Stop me from thinking of anything else!

marks all over your body—?
Wh
what is all this? All over your
Having a hard time swallowing facts?
What?
besides me?
You let someone touch you

You let him see this scar?
You even let him touch it?
Ah...
How dare they...?
Someone besides me...
Ah
Ah

I won't ever let you leave this place!
I... felt...
And then? Did you feel something? You didn't, did you?
Ugh
How did he do it? Did he tie down your wrists like this?
No, you were forced, you weren't willing at all! Say it!
Ah
Did he use drugs? Like that last time...!
I won't let you go anywhere, see anyone... I won't leave you for the rest of my life!
It's not important this sort of thing...
Shut up with all these questions

Ugh.

I'll make sure that you won't think of anything else!
I want your body to be unable to maintain itself without me!
I want you to be dependent on me only me!

I can take you there as often as you want until you pass out if you like
Let's go there together!
Straight up to heaven!
Really?

Ah...
So beautiful

My angel!

Angel unable to fly!
Don't slam the door.
Hirose!
There re traffic jams on all the through ways
You're back already?

You don't need to waste your energy worrying over trivialities
It s the only thing I can say since it's true
That I didn t know
How did you answer him?
Talked some crap about life and death emergencies and calling the police
Shibuya Katsumi came to the office during the day asking for your whereabouts

.....
Hello.
Taka-chan? It's me!
Things are almost at an end now

don't worry we d have found something by tomorrow
Whatever compared to before it s served its time though the house itself is quite new...
That is the housing situation s been exposed
C'mon. it's his birthday.
don't worry about it. I tell you I've instructed Izumi thoroughly.
cut him some slack and don't go bug him.
Working this late on Christmas Eve, Take-chan?
How awful!
...Until when?
Well...

Until the thaw, I suppose...

5643XDU

Have you ever loved someone so hard

You thought your heart would break in two?

Is he still by your side?
If so, then thot person
"The saga of Zetsuai"

I don't like myself

I'm untruthful base cowardly

But I don't feel that I'm
unfortunate because
I have soccer

soccer that I love!

But then

What do I really want to do? (Nothing at all)
What do I really want to have?
(Nothing I can attain)

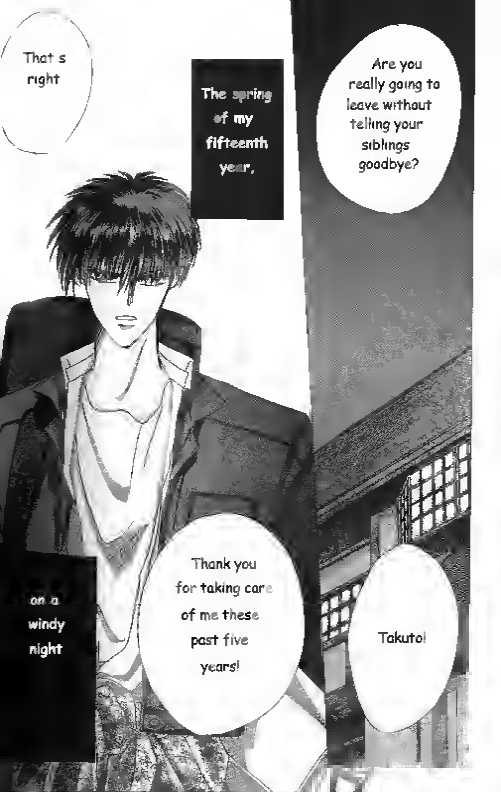
Why do I do this? (To protect myself)
What goal do I have? (But I'm so tired
already)

To tell the truth, I know the answer
both the passionate desire and refusal

The answer born of want
what I want most is

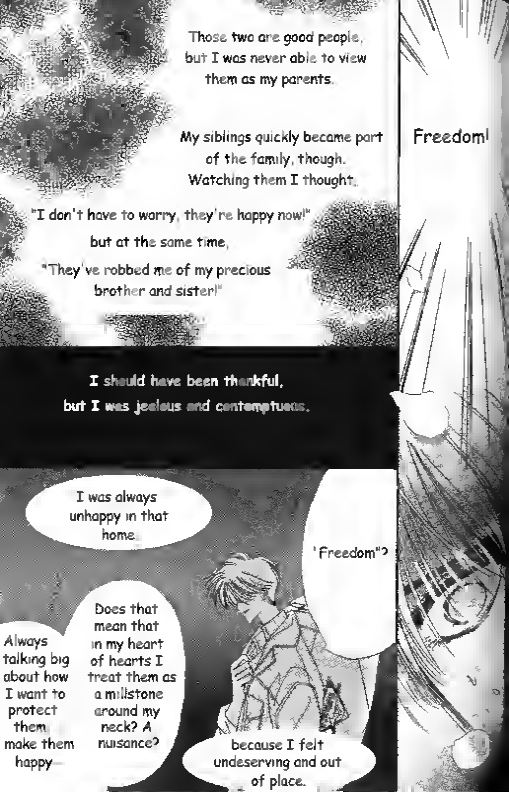
That's right,
I've always stayed
"here" of my own
free will.

"I don't believe it!"
Is this the hope
that kept me from
the madness for
twelve years?


That s right
The spring of my fifteenth year,
Are you really going to leave without telling your siblings goodbye?
on a windy night
Thank you for taking care of me these past five years!
Takuto!

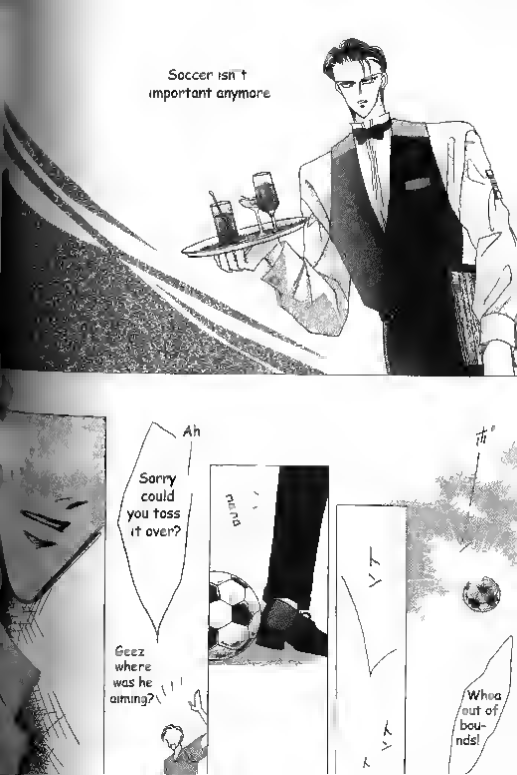
Finally the date we'd settled on arrived.
My foster father was completely against it. So I went to high school
I'd wanted to move out and support myself after junior high,
Thank you for signing my apartment lease as my guardian. I'll return the money you lent me soon
including school fees and the cost of the books and uniform
Please take care of Serika and Yuuga
Stubborn to the last
Didn't I tell you money's no object?

The sakura was only just blossoming but the air was filled with dancing petals
I'll come and take you back soon
Freedom...
I'm sorry Senka. Yuuga...


Those two are good people, but I was never able to view them as my parents.
My siblings quickly became part of the family, though. Watching them I thought,
"I don't have to worry, they're happy now!"
but at the same time,
"They've robbed me of my precious brother and sister!"
I should have been thankful, but I was jealous and contemptuous.
Freedom!
I was always unhappy in that home.
"Freedom"?
Always talking big about how I want to protect them, make them happy...
Does that mean that in my heart of hearts I treat them as a millstone around my neck? A nuisance?
because I felt undeserving and out of place.

I'm the lowest of the low!
Forget it, it's fine!
I was aware of my powerlessness as a child,
so I took growing up as my motivator.
Ah... Takuto! It's been so long!
He's grown so handsome
Wow,
it's really him!
Takuto-nisan!
And used tenderness toward my little friends of the orphanage to cover up my sense of having failed my siblings
Is everyone well?

In truth I would have liked to quit altogether and find full-time work.
since I spent all my after-school hours on part time jobs
In order to keep my scholarship I had to pay a lot of attention in class to keep my grades up...
Food money is most important
Living requires money
School trip fee? I won't have to pay if I don't go, will I? Is it possible?
Rent, loan of my foster parents, donations to the orphanage...
Save as much as I can on the electricity bill...
Don't need to buy clothes either...
Sa
I have no time to participate in any
sort of extracurricular activity


Soccer isn't important anymore
Ah
Sorry could you toss it over?
Geez where was he aiming?
Whoa out of bounds!

Soccer..
doesn't..
Ah?
Eh?
count..
as..

God!
Eh?
Ah!
Ah!

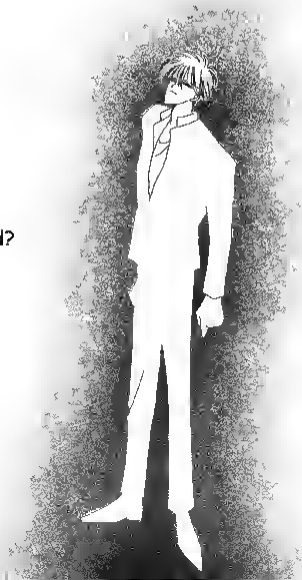
Doesn't
count...
Was
that...
ゲーキ
did he
just...?

Why..?
Ah
From that distance, that angle.
That was incredible... a curved shot!
Wow!
Did you see that? It was so cool!
Coach!
Hey, are you a first-year?

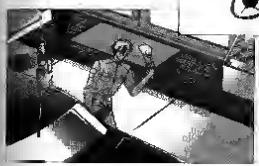
Why does soccer always

make me feel

this good?



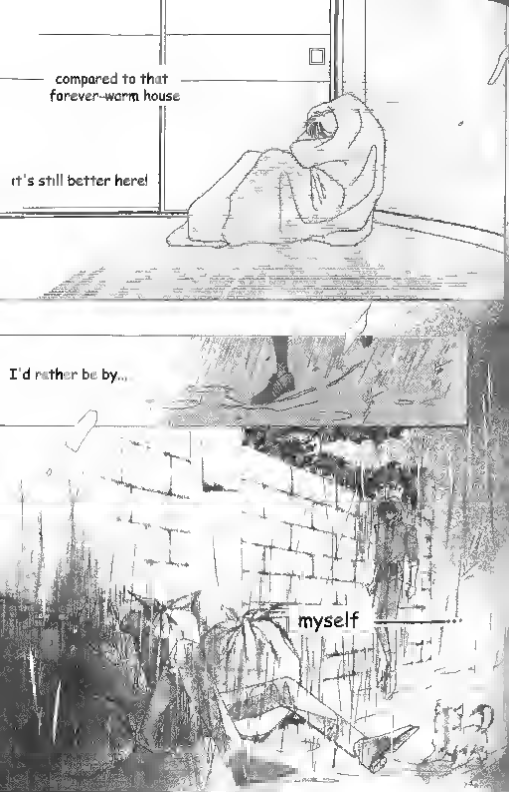
I had no regrets about choosing soccer.



Because of it, I'm able to live.

It doesn't matter if I have nothing else.

Spring, summer, autumn, winter.


compared to that forever-warm house
it's still better here!
I'd rather be by...
myself

サアアア
A drunkard... Just ignore him...
Oy! Are you okay?
You'll die!
He reeks of alcohol!
But the rain is cold tonight...
Ah!
shouldn't I call the police?

I've got to call an ambulance!
Ah!
So hot!
Don't...
go...

Wa!
Ugh
Don't go...
Good grief, don't come in, you're covered with mud!
Argh you're heavy!
It's the middle of the night all the local hospitals are...
First get him dry, there should be cold medication in the house.

Co
Cold
Damn I haven't got more blankets than this
It's midsummer!
This is a problem!
Cold?
pest!
What if he develops pneumonia?
39 2 Celsius!
Oy can you hear me?
I'll better go call an ambulance, you just wait here!
All right?
Hn
I'm such an idiot
why did I have to bring trouble home? He belongs in a hospital
why did I bring him here?

Why ?
Ah
I'm touching you
Is this real ?
I've always wanted to meet you
Please don't disappear again

Am I dreaming?
Stay with me a little longer...
I've been looking for you... such a long time...

He s mistaken me for someone else
Don't go
grab
Don't go anywhere else will you?
his girlfriend?
So wonder-ful
He really loves his girlfriend
Ah
You're here
Izumi

Eh ?
Did I mishear...
did he just_?
So cold
So hot ……

I didn't know o body...
Don't...
leave me again...!
Could ever burn like this

...Are you awake?

Strange...
What happened?
Just now, a dream?
Or was it..
My wrists
hurt...!
I told you!
I'll never free you again!
The... reality... I'd long since forgotten...?

No!
It's your own fault for trying to escape...
Don't gaze at me like that, it's useless
I have no idea anymore
how long have we
You were the one
you were the one who tempted me...
been like this?
who excited me!

and lovely body.
With your lovely eyes
when did you learn such naughty tricks?
with your detestable lies you seduced me

Me?
You did it for such a long time just now, aren't you satisfied yet?
Beast!
Never!
G
P
Fine... do your worst...
Until you're sick of it!
enjoy yourself until you're sated.

Until you're sick of me and abandon me!
..hurt!
Nothing in your head but words to inflict suffering on yourself
The same self-loathing Izumi!
I'll block your lips forever!

How will you manage it?
...Oh?
With my own lips,
of course!
but I'll never be sick of you You should be prepared
So sorry to disappoint you.

You talk too much!
Dream-crimes again
I want to buy an estate no one can find and chain you there
You're totally unrealistic
do you know what it takes to buy real estate nowadays?
Un.

What happened to all your attitude just now?
You were so cruel too!
You see? You resist and talk big, but you're still trembling!
You... you're really despicable...
Of course, I am a man.
The one I love the most gave me free rein to do as I like, how could you expect me not to take advantage?

How is it?
I love you… I love you…
You're a man too after all… shouldn't you understand?
I'll say it a hundred thousand times if you want I love you…!
Not enough?
Who understands!
Not enough!
All right…

Makes no difference if you're sacrificing yourself or taking advantage. As long as you need me I'm happy
Even if you don't need me, I'll still love you forever!
...Your expression seems to demand some proof.
Tell me, how should I prove myself to you?
How might I prove that I will feel the same in ten years, twenty, thirty, a lifetime

I can't think of a way. All that comes to mind are the words "I'll love you for the rest of my life".
Isn't it strange how love surpasses itself second after second, minute after minute?
The more I get to know you, the more I love you, without end. I adore all of you!
I love you more than seven years ago, a year ago, an hour ago, even a second ago!
"The Izumi I fell in love with doesn't exist anymore" what's that supposed to mean?

Tell me how!
The skin's broken.
It must hurt
I'll dress it for you.
Because even if you don't believe me I won't give up!

Kill me,
and the problem is solved
Kill me!

Only now in the moment can I believe everything you say
So stop time!
Only now can I give myself to you

Beautiful eyes
Wonderful idea isn't it?
I'm giving you my life!
guileless, straight-forward, and pure!

If it were so easy to possess you,

I would have done it already

Are you ...

testing me?

You don't believe those things, do you, Izumi?
That we will be reborn after we die,
That neither Heaven nor Hell makes a difference, as long as we're together,
No
that as souls we will meld into one
foolish folk!

Souls and reincarnation are mankind's futile imaginings.
Death is the end.
After death we stiffen, become cold, shrivel. They fill us with dry ice, cremate us.
What other people believe is their problem, but I won't depend on anyone like that.
They say these things because they've never known death.
Love unto death? Love after death?
I want you alive!
That's why

Don't ever glance at anyone else for the rest of your life, only look at me!

If you could give me your life, then live for me!

Only

love me!

If you're in agony, afraid of the unknown, crave without ever knowing if your wish will come true...

so much so that you could wish for time to still itself in the moment...

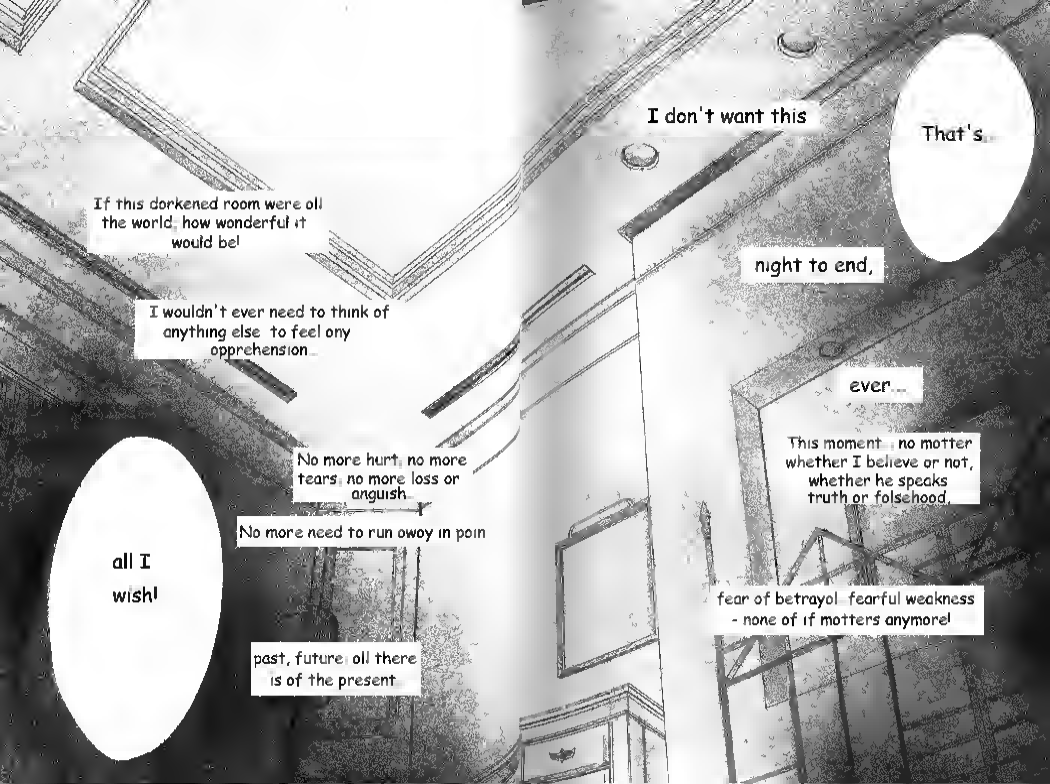
then give me your body and your heart,

your hair, eyes, hands and feet, your voice,

your beautiful tears, sweat, passionate blood and seed, give it all to me!

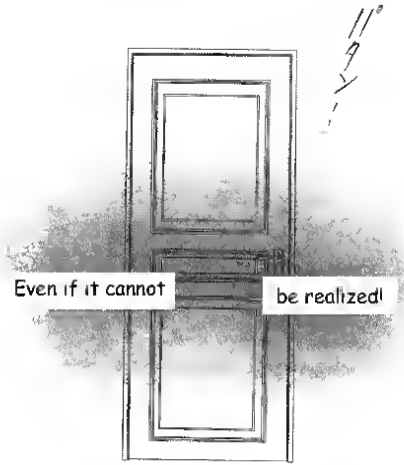
Idiot!
I tell you ta kill me and yau dan't listen!
But I have na way af carrying it aut!
This is yaur anly chance. I'll have changed my mind by tamarraw
It's not aften I say I'm giving myself ta yau

I love you too much.
I want to see you alive, smiling happily!


If this darkened room were all the world, how wonderful it would be!
I wouldn't ever need to think of anything else to feel any apprehension.
No more hurt, no more tears, no more loss or anguish.
No more need to run away in pain.
all I wish!
past, future, all there is of the present.
I don't want this
That's
night to end,
ever...
This moment, no matter whether I believe or not, whether he speaks truth or falsehood,
fear of betrayal, fearful weakness - none of it matters anymore!

All there is...

Grab



(To be continue)

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